

DOH STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

161 Delaware Avenue Delmar, NY 12054-1393

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 25, 2005

DAL/DQS: #05-13
Subject: Medicaid Bed Hold

Dear Administrator:

Federal and State Medicaid bed hold/bed reservation regulations (CFR 483.12 and 10NYCRR 415.18 and 18NYCRR 505.9, respectively) identify the circumstances in which Medicaid will reimburse a skilled nursing facility to hold a bed for a Medicaid patient who is temporarily absent from the facility. These regulations were established to reimburse a nursing facility for "holding" a bed vacant for the return of a temporarily absent Medicaid recipient that the facility would otherwise likely have been able to fill with another patient admission.

A facility's eligibility for bed hold payment is based on two factors:

- Patient Census
- Vacancy Rate

Recent nursing home audits have identified the Department's need to clarify the procedures a facility must follow when determining patient census and vacancy rate. A Medicaid Update article describing these procedures was released in October 2005 and is enclosed for your information. Please review this information carefully and take any necessary actions to assure that your facility is following the appropriate procedures for determining Medicaid bed hold payment eligibility.

Thank you for your cooperation and your continued efforts to ensure appropriate and high quality services to residents of New York State's nursing homes.

Sincerely,



Keith W. Servis, Director
Division of Quality & Surveillance
for Nursing Homes & ICFS/MR

Enclosure